

I believe it is vital to our nation's future to ensure access to quality and affordable education for every student who wants to go to college. I am proud of the relationships I have built with educators throughout my district during my career in public service. We agree that there is a lot of room for improving programs at all levels of education.

### **School Funding**

In this economic crisis it is important to continue to support our nation's schools and teachers. I understand that many schools are experiencing budget shortfalls, and that is why I voted in favor the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1). This legislation invested \$100 billion in education funding, including \$53.6 billion that will be invested into a state fiscal stabilization fund to help school modernization projects.

### **No Child Left Behind**

Educators must be given the proper tools in order to succeed. [No Child Left Behind](#) (NCLB) will come before Congress to be reauthorized. One of the major problems with NCLB has been the lack of proper funding for schools to carry out mandated programs. We need to reexamine the standards by which our schools and students are being judged. A one-size-fits-all system is unfair to students and teachers. I look forward to focusing on this legislation in the 111th Congress.

### **College**

A hard working student should never be deterred from attending college because of increasing tuition costs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act increased Pell Grants by \$500, and created a new \$2,500 tuition tax credit for textbooks and supplies.

I am also proud to have voted in favor of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (HR 3221), which made historic investments into the Nation's higher education system. This

legislation invests more than \$97.7 million in Ohio's Sixth District to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,500 in 2010 and \$6,900 by 2019. In addition, this legislation will provide Ohio nearly \$78 million to help finance projects to renovate and modernize aging facilities at community colleges.

In the 110th Congress, I voted in favor of [H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007](#) . This new law cuts the interest rates on federal student loans, paid by new students, in half by 2012.

I also voted for the [College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007](#) (HR 4137) . This legislation would ensure that states maintain higher education funding and would provide incentives, such as additional need-based aid, to encourage colleges to hold down price increases.

Additionally, I also supported the [College Cost Reduction Act of 2007](#) (HR 2669), which the President signed into law on September 27, 2007. This legislation boosts college financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years. Under the legislation, the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship increases by \$500 over the next five years. About 6 million low- and moderate-income students across the country would benefit from this increase. 224,615 Ohio students alone benefit from this increase in the Pell Grant.

For more information on my work on education, click [here](#) .